Subject: Chat with Michael Hastings
From: Michael Hastings <mhastings@gmail.com>
To: barriticus@gmail.com

Michael: hey bro, what's up in your world?
me: not much, just drinking mah coffee and watching cnn for the first time in several years
me: doesn't seem to have gone through any radical improvement
me: also, we brought on some new folks over the past week
me: Juan Cole's now confirmed
me: got the dean of business or some such at Roosevelt University
Michael: nice
me: been chatting with Andrew Sullivan a bit more
Michael: cool, cool
Michael: yeah, and sadly, cnn is the best of them
me: yeah, I've gathered
Michael: tho i like r.m and keith on msnbc
me: yeah, Maddow is probably the best
me: Olbermann irritates the fuck out of me
Michael: hah
me: but, yes, he's relatively good
me: you still in Vermont?
Michael: yeah, heading to new york this wekeend
Michael: but will be camped out here more or less thru august
Michael: dallas?
me: yeah, signed a six-month lease
me: got a pool
Michael: nice!
me: yeah, that's a big plus
Michael: any upcoming for VF?
Michael: btw, what the fuck happened to true/slant?
me: not at the moment, been concentrating on PM and prepping materials for that producer fellow so we can get a bunch of money
Michael: inice
me: in which manner?
me: it always sucked
Michael: hah
Michael: yeah, i supposedly had "equity"
Michael: in the company
me: fucking front page story is inevitably that one chauncy talking about some celebrity shit
Michael: (i didn't get paid at all)
me: didn't get paid your monthly stipend, even?

me: or just equity?
Michael: no, never got a stipedn
me: wtf?
Michael: the deal was i would just cash out when they did
me: have you talked to them recently?
Michael: but they have not even given th ebasic answers
Michael: i got a note, and they said that they were still trying to figure it out...
Michael: i don't give a shit, it's just lame
me: they wrote in my contract that I only had to get 10,000 hits a month to get $500
me: then later determined that was an error
Michael: hah
Michael: yeah right
Michael: ridiculous
Michael: business model: get people to work for free!
me: also fucking New York Observer never got back to me after calling me in for a fucking meeting to discuss five articles
me: that's HuffPo business model
Michael: fuck those guys
me: yeah, seriously
Michael: but at leasy HuffPo has 70 employees
me: yeah, and they took on whatshisname, WashPost's good fellow
Michael: yeah, he's good
me: Dan something
me: Froomkin?
Michael: exactly
me: yeah, they took him on immediately
me: to be fair, WashPo employs Ezra Klein
Michael: the WaPo--let's fire our biggest web trafffic getter!
me: to be fairer, their first foray into getting a blogger
me: they brought on this fucking toolbox from Red State
me: this kid my age
me: Ben Domenech
Michael: right, right
me: and then the libs did some opposition research
Michael: was he klan or something?
me: found he'd plagiarized a review for Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within
me: no, he'd said some nonsense
Michael: awesime
me: but had also plagiarized tons of shit
me: incuding AN ENTIRE FUCKING P.J. O'Rourke essay
Michael: i don't get plagairsim nowadays
Michael: hah

me: no shit
Michael: just link
Michael: i mean, it has always been lame
me: and how do you not know how to review Final Fantasy yourself?
Michael: some dude plagiarized an entire martin amis novel
Michael: back in the '80s
me: what kind of shit writer do you have to be
me: oh, that fucking critic?
me: I was just reading something about him the other day
Michael: people love to hate on amis
me: fucing anti-blogger sentiment
me: I mean, universal anti-blogger sentiment
Michael: yeah, and it's true, amis has hated on lots of folks
me: well, that's good
me: Daily Kos sucks, for instance
Michael: well, his style is not suited for blogging
Michael: Amis i mean
me: not even allison kilkenny will write for that fucking mob
Michael: hah, she and her husband invited me on their show
Michael: citizen's radio?
me: you should go on, it's a damn good show
me: they have chomsky on
Michael: really?
me: her husband's not funny as a comedian
Michael: i agreed to do it on friday
me: but they do a really good radio show
Michael: but then they didn't call
me: good
me: oh
Michael: and then they asked if i was free sunday
Michael: and i didn't answer
me: they'd asked me to come on some time
Michael: yeah, i had said i would do it
me: like a year ago
me: but that show
Michael: so i will get in touch with them then
me: would be something we would bring on
me: in such case as Robert Green's madcap plan to start a new cable outlet goes through
me: hey, what did you go to rehab for, heroin?
me: or just drinking?
Michael: hah, drinking, speed, drugs with letter c
Michael: beginning with c

me: coke, crack?
Michael: :)
me: I used to smoke crack myself
Michael: sorry that was a lame emoticon
me: I had to get off heroin a couple months ago
Michael: shit!
Michael: wild
me: yes it was, it was gayer than going to dinner with a french ambassador
me: anyway, I'm in AA now
me: mostly for networking purposes
Michael: yes, i've been sober for ten years
me: AA irritates the fuck out of me
me: but my uncle's like the king of Dallas AA
Michael: yes, that's the probblem
me: oh, also
me: I've just started a secret splinter group
Michael: hah
me: which only you and a few others will know about
me: it's led by an old associate from e-terrorism days
Michael: hilarity.
me: guy who got a felony during the anti-scientology attacks
me: told him to assemble a team
Michael: shit, i got to get down to dallas
me: come down whenever, I got a sweet place
me: anyway, this will be our Special Operations LOL division
me: which is why I made the hushmail account
me: anyway, this will consist of hackers and various shadowy figures from the lulz/chan community
me: with experience in causing trouble
Michael: awesome
me: did you ever read up on Chanology?
Michael: sorry, just got a call
Michael: one sec
me: word
me: jesus, Pamela Geller is on CNN